(b) if so, whether Council will also review the books prescribed by the Boards like ICSE;

(c) whether this report was approved by the Central Advisory Board on Education;

(d) if so, the objectives of this Council;

(e) by when the Council is likely to submit its recommendations; and

(f) whether his Ministry is working on a legislation to set up a National Textbooks Council to monitor school text books produced outside Government system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (f) A Sub-Committee of the Central Advisory Board of Education was set up on "Regulatory Mechanism for Textbooks and Parallel Textbooks taught in schools outside the Government System". The Committee had made several recommendations including setting up of National Textbook Council to monitor textbooks. The matter is under consideration of the Ministry.

Central University status to Sambalpur University

1231. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Orissa written to the Centre for grant of Central University status to the Sambalpur University;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the proposal is hanging fire since long;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have not accorded this status to any of the universities in the State; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Presently the Government is concentrating on the consolidation of facilities of the existing universities rather than on increasing the number of Central Universities. Apart from the exception made in the case of the North East Region, the only exception has been in respect of the Allahabad University which is in a different category, being restoration to its one time status of a Central University. In view of the priority to consolidation of existing universities from the available resources, granting of Central University status to more state universities would not be possible at present.

Foreign universities

1232. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India had raised the issue, at an international forum under UNESCO, of the foreign universities opening campuses in the country which are not even recognized in their home countries;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that following recommendations from CNR Committee, Government are planning to legislate on the entry and operations of the foreign universities in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the details of the other steps being contemplated to regulate the foreign universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) During the discussions on the UNESCO Guidelines on "Quality Provision in Cross-Border Higher Education" at the 33rd Session of the General Conference of UNESCO held at Paris in October, 2005, India has *inter-alia* made the observation that "no foreign institution should be allowed to operate in the host country if it is not accredited in the home country".